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The President's Daily Brief

27 November 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 November 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Viet Cong broadcasts have rejected the possibility of a stand-still cease-fire and the prolongation of forthcoming holiday truces. *(Page 1)*

The military situation in Laos is discussed on *Page 2*.

Egypt *(Page 3)* 50X1

Following the suicide on Wednesday, Tokyo will watch far right groups more closely but the main threat from this sector remains isolated acts of terror or self-destruction. *(Page 4)*

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VIETNAM

Two Viet Cong broadcasts have attacked President Nixon's proposal for a stand-still cease-fire and rejected the possibility of prolonging forthcoming holiday truces. The broadcasts said the Communists "will take rational and sensible decisions" to allow combatants on both sides to observe Christmas, New Year, and Lunar New Year holidays, but one of them asserted that the Communists "will never accept" an extended cease-fire until there is an "appropriate political solution" to the war and the US is willing to withdraw all its troops from Vietnam.

These commentaries appear to be aimed at waverers in Communist ranks as much as at allied audiences. The broadcasts seem to be part of an effort to disabuse Communist forces of "peace illusions" they may have because of President Nixon's proposals and other cease-fire talk now being heard in many parts of South Vietnam. One of the broadcasts observes that a cease-fire might silence the guns, but "death, imprisonment, shame and misery" would continue under a "US-type" cease-fire. The broadcast notes the troubles the Communists encountered after the Geneva Agreements in 1954 and predicts that if the US cease-fire proposal were accepted thousands of "patriotic compatriots" would be imprisoned and massacred.

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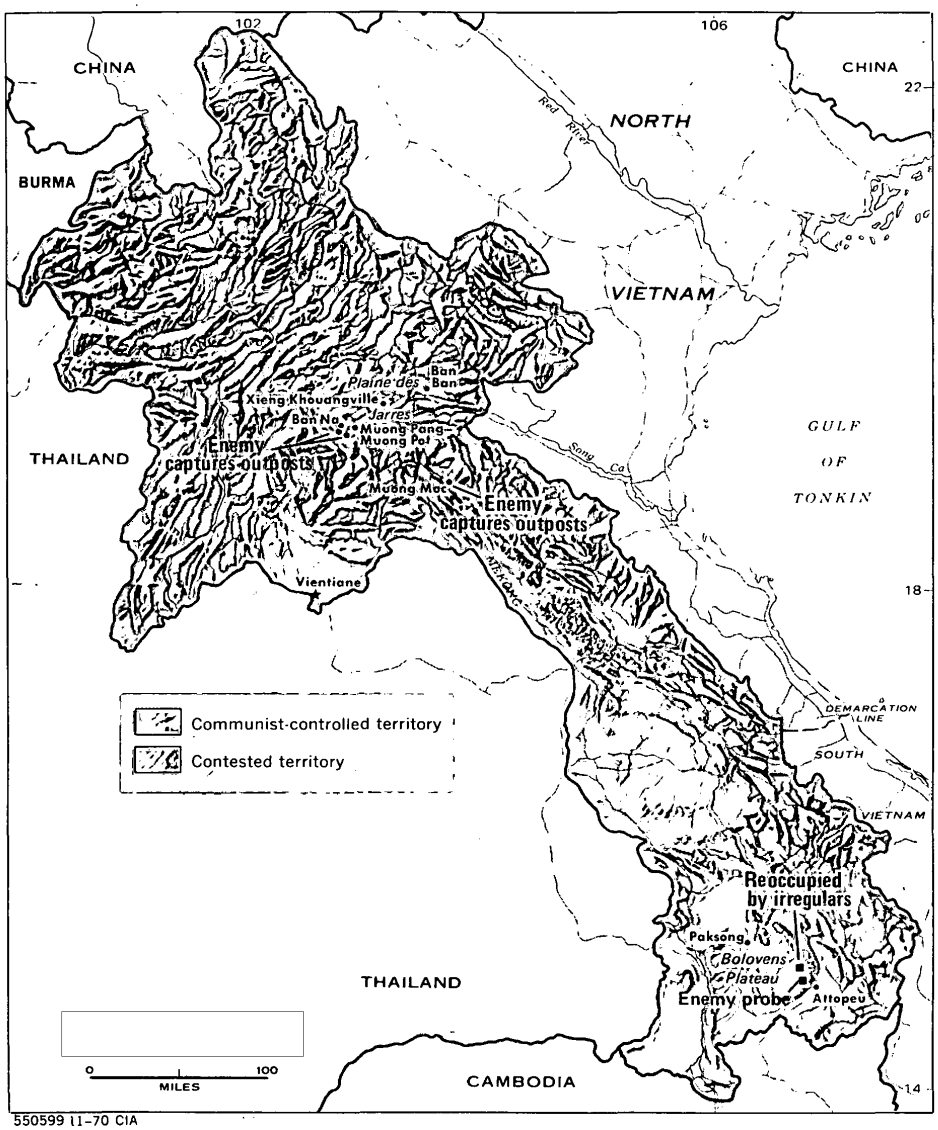
LAOS: Current Situation



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LAOS

Communist forces attacked and occupied two outposts near Ban Na west of the Plaine des Jarres on 25 November. East of Ban Na, intercepted messages indicate that the North Vietnamese 148th Regiment is preparing coordinated attacks in the Muong Pang - Muong Pot area.

Although fighting in the north remains sporadic, this activity suggests that "phase two" of the North Vietnamese counteroffensive west of the Plaine, to which Communist messages have repeatedly referred, has begun.

Elsewhere in the north, on 24 November a North Vietnamese force overran five outposts of government irregulars near Muong Moc. A probing attack on Muong Moc itself was repulsed, however.

Irregular forces occupied this isolated area during the past rainy season, and an enemy effort to retake it was expected.

Communist messages continue to refer to fears that government troops are planning strikes against Communist supply operations east of the Plaine. Units near Xieng Khouangville and Ban Ban have been warned to take security precautions.

In the south, Communist reinforcements appear to be moving southward toward the Bolovens Plateau. On the plateau's eastern rim, a site 15 miles northwest of Attopeu has twice changed hands this week, with a government irregular battalion regaining possession on 25 November. The Communists continue to probe another site which government forces reoccupied earlier this week.

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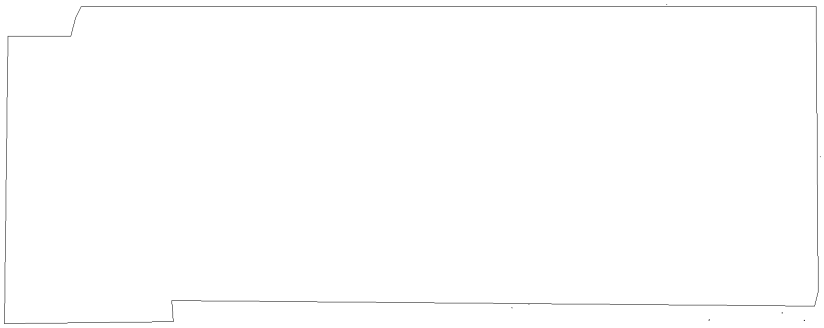
EGYPT-USSR



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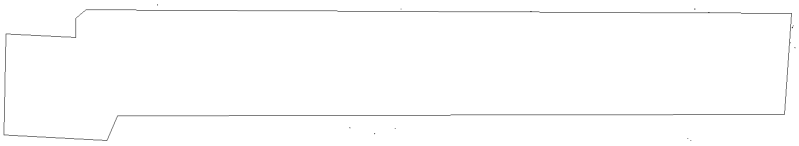

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NOTE

Japan: Tokyo--sensitive to rising fears in Asia of resurgent Japanese militarism--is likely to make every effort to downplay the significance of the suicide Wednesday of Yukio Mishima, a highly popular novelist and prominent right-wing leader. Sato immediately condemned the suicide as the act of a "deranged mind," and this view apparently is being supported by the media. The government plans to exercise greater vigilance against the far right, but for the foreseeable future the principal threat from these small groups is likely to remain isolated acts of terror or self-destruction.

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